

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 296914

21

ORIGIN SMI-01

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OES/APT/BMP:ACHAPMAN(INFO)

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R 070045Z DEC 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IN, NP, TBIO

SUBJECT:SMITHSONIAN - PIPER CUB PLANE FOR USE IN NEPAL TIGER
RESEARCH PROJECT

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE, DR. DAVID CHALLINOR,
DURING RECENT VISIT TO NEW DELHI, MENTIONED TO SCIENCE
ATTACHE THAT SMITHSONIAN INTERESTED IN BRINGING SMALL PLANE
TO NEPAL FOR USE BY TIGER RESEARCH PROJECT. U.S. GOVERN-
MENT SURPLUS PIPER SUPER CUB, NOW LOCATED IN EUROPE CAN BE
OBTAINED FOR THIS PURPOSE. SMITHSONIAN CONTINUES TO HOPE
THAT IMPORT OF PIPER CUB CAN BE ARRANGED BECAUSE ITS USE
WOULD GREATLY ENHANCE SCIENTIFIC VALUE OF TIGER RESEARCH.

2. SMITHSONIAN PROPOSES SHIP PLANE BY SEA TO CALCUTTA,
REASSEMBLE IT THERE, AND FLY IT TO KATHMANDU. PLANE WOULD
BE TITLED IN NAME OF SMITHSONIAN, AND AMERICAN PERSONNEL

WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN CALCUTTA FOR REASSEMBLY AND FLIGHT TO
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NEPAL.

3. COSTS IN INDIA TO BE COVERED BY DOLLARS.

4. ALTERNATIVE PLAN BEING CONSIDERED WOULD ENTAIL FLY-
ING PLANE FROM EUROPE ACROSS INDIAN AIR SPACE TO
KATHMANDU.

5. APPROVAL BY NEPALESE GOVERNMENT NOT YET RECEIVED BUT
DECISION EXPECTED SOON. IN ORDER EXPEDITE MATTERS IN
INDIA, SMITHSONIAN REQUESTS EMBASSY ADVICE AS TO WHAT
PROCEDURES NEED BE FOLLOWED TO CLEARPLANE WITHOUT
CUSTOMS DUTY AND TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FLY FROM CALCUTTA
TO KATHMANDU.

6. EMBASSY COMMENTS ALSO REQUESTED ON RELATIVE MERITS OF
TWO PLANS, ARRIVAL IN INDIA BY SEA OR BY AIR. KISSINGER

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